

# Say P. S. Board's Lax Methods Caused Subway Disaster

FINAL  
EDITION

The



World.

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## GERMAN SUBMARINES TO LAY MINES AT ENTRANCE TO EVERY BRITISH HARBOR

### FATAL BLAZE IN SUBWAY IS LAID AT THE DOOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Workmen Bored Into Conduit and Caused Short Circuit, Says Hayward.

DENIAL BY WILLIAMS.

Revelations as to Real Cause of Jan. 6 Smudge Made at Hearing.

The Public Service Commission was this afternoon charged with full responsibility for the subway accident of Jan. 6 when, owing to the short circuiting of feed wires, the tube was filled with poisonous fumes, one passenger was killed and a great number rendered unconscious and injured.

The disaster was directly laid at the Commission's door by Col. William Hayward, counsel to the Joint Legislative Committee which is investigating the work of the Commission.

He made the statement, backing it up with written and signed reports of workmen, that the accident was caused by workmen employed in the new subway section in West Forty-second Street, drilling into a duct bank of the existing subway, short circuiting the current and causing the burning out in the splicing chamber at Fifty-third Street.

The disclosure came during the questioning of Public Service Commissioner George V. S. Williams.

It was made at the morning session. When the afternoon session opened, Commissioner Williams said that his investigation during the recess had convinced him that Col. Hayward's charge was not true.

At the close of the grilling to which Mr. Williams was subjected, Col. Hayward asked him why it was that the people of the city had not been told of the real cause of the accident, demanding if it had not been kept quiet because it was "passing the buck from the Interborough to the Public Service Commission."

The Commissioner replied that he should not be asked such a question. Col. Hayward led up to his sensational disclosures by asking Mr. Williams a number of questions about the care the commission exercised in its supervision of subway work. Mr. Williams told him that not a stake was driven except where the inspectors of the commission were present to supervise it; that the greatest care was given where subways came together.

Col. Hayward—Did you know that on the morning of the accident, workmen busy in building the new subway section in West Forty-second Street, the contract of Holbrook, Curtis & Robbins, drilled down through one of the main conduits of the subway? Did you know that the flame and heat generated by this were so great that the man had to flee and that the head of the drill was burned off?

Did you know that one hundred feet of the burned cable were taken from the conduit after the drill penetrated the duct-bank?

Commissioner Williams—No. That is all news to me.

Col. Hayward—Well, I'll tell you more about it. A manhole was being put down in front of No. 124 West Forty-second Street. There were

MADE KISS WAGER WITH BASEBALL STAR, HER HUSBAND SAYS.



MRS. VANDERBILT FIGHTS FOR \$30,000,000 ESTATE

Attorneys for Her and Mrs. Oelrichs Filed New Motions in Fair Case.

Three motions were made before Supreme Court Justice Gavegan, today, by Bowers and Sands, attorneys for Mrs. Herman Oelrichs and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, in an attempt to set aside the efforts of George and Theodore W. Leffer of Newark, N. J., and Mabel E. Towle of Concord, N. H., all children of Sarah Leffer, deceased sister of the late Caroline D. Fair, to get a share of the \$30,000,000 estate which was left by Mrs. Fair and her husband, Charles L. Fair, in 1902. They were killed in an automobile accident in France.

Mrs. Oelrichs and Mrs. Vanderbilt are sisters of the late Mr. Fair. The settlement of the estate hinged largely upon the question whether husband or wife had died first. As it was, the will was probated in California, and this the plaintiff claims to have been an illegal move.

There are forty-two heirs "but settlements are said to have been effected with practically all of them except the three who are now figuring as plaintiffs."

**SAILING TO-DAY.**  
Magante, Liverpool.....12 M.  
Almirante, Jamaica.....12 M.  
Minneapolis, London.....12 M.

### WIFE GAVE HEWES SILK PAJAMAS AND KISS, SAYS MEINKEN

But She Says Pretty Things Were for a 64-Year-Old Woman Friend.

MISJUDGED, SHE SAYS.

"Honorably Wronged," She Asserts—Husband Charges She Made Kiss Wager.

Well dressed women by the dozen and young men wearing large tortoise shelled spectacles crowded Justice Blanchard's part of the Supreme Court to-day and heard Mrs. Elizabeth Benson Meinken, handsome wife of Harry Meinken, wealthy shoe manufacturer, defend herself against the charge that she had acted indiscreetly with Harry P. Hewes, a young real estate man.

Mrs. Meinken brought suit against her husband for a separation and he retaliated by bringing an action for divorce.

For more than three hours Mrs. Meinken was under cross examination and it developed that these questions would be the ones that Justice Blanchard would have to answer in deciding the case:

Did Mrs. Meinken ever bet Andy Conkley, noted baseball player, a kiss that he could not win a game of solitaire, and did she lose the bet?

Did Mr. Hewes, who was in court, ever scamper around in Mrs. Meinken's apartments in his B. V. D.'s?

Did she ever buy Mr. Hewes silk pajamas and costly neckties and have them charged up to her husband's account?

Did she ever tell her former friend Mrs. Carolyn Hazard of Trenton, N. J., that no one could blame her for falling in love with Mr. Hewes's big black eyes, and did she then and there kiss him in the presence of her Trenton friend?

Mrs. Meinken, who was asked all these questions, denied them with all the emphasis in her musical voice. She stamped her feet and said to the judge:

"My husband misjudged me. I was honorably wronged and the reason why I didn't tell Mr. Meinken that I had met Mr. Hewes and dined with him was because I wanted to protect Mr. Hewes. He is the younger boy and the world protects the older but not the younger boys."

Hewes who was sitting in the rear, smiled approvingly. Then his six-foot form arose and he offered his chair to Mrs. Meinken, who took it while he retired to a table.

Attorney Huth, for the husband, dwelt at length upon the pink silk pajama incident with such an artistically humorous touch that even Justice Blanchard smiled.

Mrs. Meinken had just denied that Hewes had cavorted around her apartment in his B. V. D.'s when Mr. Huth hurled this question at her:

"Did you ever hug and kiss Mr. Hewes on a couch?"

"Never," she replied.

"When is Mr. Hewes's birthday?" she was asked.

"I don't know," she replied.

"Didn't you give him a pair of silk pajamas on his last birthday?" the lawyer inquired.

"Silk pajamas?" Mrs. Meinken repeated in amazement. "Why, the very idea! I never did!"

"Well, didn't you buy some at Stern Brothers?"

"Yes, I did—that is my friend, Mrs. Horner and Mrs. Booth, purchased some for themselves, and I per-

### FOOD SUPPLY FACTS FROM WILSON TO REASSURE NATION

President Tells Mayor Mitchell He Will Remove Erroneous Impressions.

WIDE INQUIRY MADE.

Agricultural Department Will Give Statement of Exact Conditions in Short Time.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—President Wilson declared to-day he believed an erroneous impression had grown up concerning the food supply in the United States. In a letter to Mayor Mitchell of New York, replying to a suggestion that an embargo be placed by the Federal Government on exports of wheat, the President wrote that in the near future the Administration will give out a statement showing the exact situation.

The President thanked Mayor Mitchell for his letter and for the report of the food committee, headed by George W. Perkins, in which it was suggested that the amount of wheat in the United States at the present time, as compared with the amount on hand a year ago, be made public.

"The matter is one to which the Administration has, of course, from the first given the most thoughtful and careful attention," wrote the President. "The Agricultural Department is in possession of all the facts. About these facts some very erroneous impressions obtain, and it is our purpose in the immediate future to remove these misunderstandings by a very full and clear statement of all the facts. They will, I think, reassure the country."

Mayor Mitchell's letter has been referred to Secretary Houston and a thorough investigation now is being made. It is understood to be the position of the President that he has no authority to declare an embargo on the exportation of foodstuffs, even though such a step were considered wise.

### MAGISTRATE FRESCHI PROMOTED BY MAYOR

Appointed to Vacancy on Special Sessions Bench Caused by Zeller Resignation.

Mayor Mitchell to-day appointed Magistrate John J. Freschi to the place on the Special Sessions bench made vacant by the resignation of Justice Lorenz Zeller. Freschi is a Democrat who has been identified with Tammany Hall. The salary of Special Sessions Justice is \$9,000, which is an increase of \$2,000 over that which Freschi received as a Magistrate.

The Zeller term which the newly appointed Justice fills expires July 1 of this year. On that date it is believed Mayor Mitchell will reappoint Freschi to the full term of ten years.

It is understood that the Mayor made the appointment of Freschi out of consideration for the Italian element of Manhattan and the Bronx, which contended that it did not have proper representation in the city courts.

Magistrate Daniel Murphy, Democrat, and Robert Appleton, Republican, were active candidates for the place.

### DAUGHTER TEACHES JUSTICE HE CANNOT ENJOIN DAN CUPID

Supreme Court Judge's Mandate to Wait Has No Effect on Him.

SHE WEDS IN SECRET.

Miss Eugenie Philbin Becomes Mrs. Wetmore Without Her Parents' Knowledge.

Supreme Court Justice Eugene A. Philbin was able to state authoritatively to-day that it is foolish for any later parent to try to tie up Cupid over Lent—especially when Dan is in one of his determined moods.

Justice Philbin knows, for he and Mrs. Philbin tried it with their daughter, Eugenie, who, it developed to-day, had been engaged to Louis H. Wetmore, a writer, for some time before she slipped quietly away with him yesterday and was married, in spite of the wishes of her parents that the couple wait until after Lent.

At the Vanderbilt Hotel, to-day, the happy couple told their side of the story to an Evening World reporter just before they left for a two weeks' wedding trip in Canada. Over his coffee at the Philbin home, at No. 61 West Fifty-second Street, Justice Philbin told the parental side of the case—and both sides agreed it was foolish to ask the impetuous Dan to exercise his patience over the forty days of Lent.

"Mrs. Philbin and I knew right along that the couple had intended to be married, although no formal announcement had been made," said Justice Philbin. "Only a few of their friends knew about it. All we asked them to do was to wait until after Lent. No, we did not know the ceremony had been performed until it was over."

In the bridal suite at the Vanderbilt Mr. Wetmore was anxious to correct the impression it was an out-and-out elopement.

"Well, yes, it is true we didn't notify the Judge and Mrs. Philbin before we went to Father John Burke of the Church of St. Paul the Apostle for the ceremony yesterday, but they approved of our marriage. They wanted us to wait until after Lent. It was all done on a sudden impulse. We had intended to announce our engagement formally in a few days and had decided to set April 22 as the wedding day. With this idea we got our marriage license three weeks ago."

"When the eve of Lent came around, though, we thought of the long wait, and yesterday decided to call up Mr. and Mrs. Lorimer Worden, friends of ours, and have the knot tied at once. They were our only friends who knew about the ceremony yesterday. On our return from our trip we will live in the city."

Wetmore recently returned from London, where he established himself as a literary agent. He is managing the lecture tours in this country of Cecil Chesterton, who is here now, and Hilaire Belloc, who is due here within a week.

The former Miss Philbin has been prominent in society since her debut in 1913. In November of that year her engagement to Arthur R. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Strother Jones of No. 29 East Thirty-ninth Street, was announced, but it was broken off by mutual consent last June.

Wetmore is a stepson of Dr. James W. Murdock, pathological surgeon of the Lying-In Hospital and formerly private physician to J. P. Morgan.

### BRITISH MERCHANTMEN GUARDED BY WARSHIPS AGAINST RAIDERS

DAUGHTER OF JUDGE WHO BROKE INJUNCTION BY WEDDING SECRETLY



### SUBMARINE SINKS BRITISH COLLIER; HER CREW ESCAPE

Torpedo Strikes Below the Water Line and Vessel Goes Under in 20 Minutes.

HAVRE (via Paris), Feb. 17.—The British steam collier Dulwich, bound from Hull to Rouen, was torpedoed by a German submarine twenty miles northwest of Cape de la Heve at 6 o'clock last night. The torpedo struck the middle starboard side.

As the crew took to the boats the submarine that torpedoed the ship was seen speeding away. The Dulwich sank in twenty minutes.

Twenty-two members of the crew of thirty-one men were picked up by the French destroyer Arquebuse and brought to Havre. Seven others rowed to Fecamp. The fate of the other two is unknown.

The weather was clear, but a heavy sea was running when the Dulwich was blown up. The torpedo struck under the waterline and the explosion that followed was terrific.

The ship began to settle immediately, and a hasty examination showed Capt. Hunter his vessel would keep afloat only a few minutes. He ordered the boats launched, and the sailors tumbled in without taking time to save their personal belongings.

While pulling toward the French coast seeking a ship which might rescue them, the crew of the Dulwich saw the submarine rise to the surface several times, as if watching them, and then disappear again.

One report says no notice was given to the collier before the torpedo was launched.

### Scandinavian-American Liner Oscar II., Which Sailed From New York With 400 Passengers, Held Up by British Cruiser and Then Released

### MORE GAINS IN POLAND REPORTED FROM BERLIN.

BERLIN, via Amsterdam, Feb. 17 (United Press).—The Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, continuing its policy of outlining the German Government's position in connection with the blockade, declares to-day that every possible precaution will be taken to protect neutrals from submarine attack. But it again points out that many vessels are certain to fall victims to mines which the German submarines will lay with lavish hand.

"We shall place mines before every British harbor entrance," the report says, "something we are legally entitled to do, inasmuch as all British ports have been declared war ports. Our under seas boats have contrivances for mine laying and they will make lavish use of them."

"Our submarine captains have been told to carefully guard neutral shipping, and there is not a single one who cannot discern between a neutral and an enemy's merchantman. But mines are blind and may strike anything, and because of this grave danger we cannot too strongly urge all neutral shipping to keep away from English and French ports."

### British Submarines Out to Fight Germans in the New War Zone

LONDON, Feb. 17 (United Press).—England's navy is ready to meet the German submarine blockade which goes into effect at midnight. Details of the plan are kept secret, but it is known that efforts are to be provided for the British merchant fleet. A few vessels may be held in port, but the majority of the sailings, it is stated on authority, will take place on schedule.

The destroyer and torpedo flotillas have been assigned to patrol duty along the steamship lanes. British submarines are also expected to be active, as it is realized that the Germans will try to strike hard at the very outset in order to terrify timid ship owners and influence them to keep their vessels in their home ports.

All of the neutral vessels reaching British ports to-day from Scandinavian points had their national colors painted all around their upper works. In addition all of them had their names very prominently displayed, some of the regular liners having them arranged with electric bulbs forming the letters in order that there could be no mistaking their identity.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 17.—According to the Telegram, the regular sailings of the Royal Dutch Lloyd Steamship Company will not be halted by the German war zone order and its steamers will sail as usual to-night, passing through the prohibited zone without any convoy.

SOFIA, Feb. 17.—Following the departure of the Greek Minister from Constantinople, news was received here to-day that the Turkish Minister at Athens has left that city. This is looked on here as indicating a rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

ROME, Feb. 17.—Despatches from Athens say that Greece has prepared for eventualities by assembling 20,000 troops at Salonica.

### British Cruiser Holds Up Oscar II., But She Is Later Allowed to Sail

The Danish steamship Oscar II., taken into Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands last Sunday by a British cruiser, was released on Monday and presumably proceeded to Copenhagen, according to despatches received here to-day from London. Despatches from Copenhagen stated that anxiety had been felt there as to the vessel's safety.

The Oscar II. sailed from New York Feb. 4 with almost 400 passengers and a heavy cargo of general merchandise. She was spoken off the north coast of Scotland last Friday.

Manager Jacobson said his report of the seizure of the Oscar II. came from the company's office in Copenhagen. The wireless outfit of the neutral ship had been dismantled as soon as she was overhauled by the British cruiser and word of her capture reached Copenhagen only by roundabout channels.

"There is not a pound of contraband aboard," a representative of the line asserted, "nor anything in the nature of conditional contraband, as we understand it. The cargo was destined to the neutral port of Copenhagen. We cannot understand why the ship was detained, especially in view of the fact that the United Steamship Company of Copenhagen, which